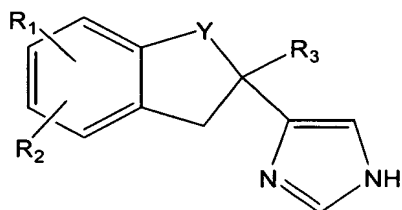


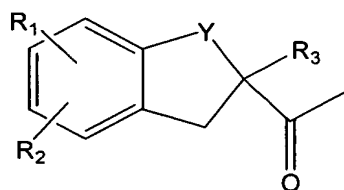
(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a process for preparing substituted imidazole derivatives of formula (I) and acid addition salts thereof



(I)

in which formula Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$ or $-\text{CO}-$, R_1 is H, halo or hydroxy, R_2 is H or halo and R_3 is H or lower alkyl, starting from a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein Y , R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are as defined above. The invention also relates to intermediates and their preparation.